

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NATO 03244 131331Z
ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 03244

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC
SUBJECT: DPC MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE: DRC DISCUSSION,
MAY 12

REF: (A) USNATO 2935 (DTG 091940Z MAY 77), (B) USNATO
2994 (DTG 101154Z MAY 77)
SUMMARY: IN ITS REVIEW OF DRAFT DPC MINISTERIAL COMMUNI-
QUE (REF A), MAY 12, DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)
AGREED, AD REFERENDUM, TO (A) REORDER THE SEQUENCE OF
PARAGRAPHS IN THE COMMUNIQUE, ADDING PART OF THE THREAT
DISCUSSION (PARA 4) TO THE COVERAGE OF US DEFENSE INITIA-
TIVES (PARA 2) AND PROMOTING MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE (PARA 12)
TO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW THESE PARAS; (B) AMEND AWACS PARA
ALONG THE LINES OF PARA 1A, REF B AND (C) INCORPORATE, IN
BRACKETS, OUR TEXT ON INFRASTRUCTURE (PARA 1B, REF B).
COMMITTEE WILL ADDRESS A REVISED TEXT ON MAY 17, IMMEDI-
ATELY FOLLOWING THE RESTRICTED SESSION OF THE DPC MINIS-
TERIAL. MAJOR POINTS OF DRC DISCUSSION FOLLOW. END
SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING VARIOUS PROPOSALS FOR REORDERING THE PRESEN-
TATIONAL FLOW OF THE DRAFT DPC MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE,
THE COMMITTEE AGREED, AD REFERENDUM, TO ADD PART OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 03244 131331Z

THREAT DISCUSSION (PARA 4) TO THE TEXT ON THE LONG-
AND SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS (PARA 2), REASONING THAT THE NEED
FOR NEW DEFENSE INITIATIVES FLOWED FROM THE STEADY GROWTH
IN WARSAW PACT CAPABILITIES. DRC ALSO AGREED TO ENLIVEN
TEXT ON MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE (PARA 12) AND PROMOTE IT TO
FOLLOW THE COVERAGE OF THE DEFENSE INITIATIVES. FRG REP
(BGEN SCHUENEMANN), QUICKLY SUPPORTED BY A NUMBER OF

ALLIES, URGED THAT MORE PROMINENCE BE GIVEN TO 1977 MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, STATING THAT BONN VIEWS THE GUIDANCE AS THE "CENTERPIECE" OF THE MINISTERIAL AND THE COMMUNIQUE AND COMMENTING THAT IN THE PRESENT TEXT IT IS PRECEDED BY "ELEVEN UNEXCITING PARAGRAPHS." CANADIAN (MAC NAB), DUTCH (WYNAENDTS), TURKISH (TOPUR) AND BELGIAN (CROLLEN) REPS, SUPPORTED BY CHAIRMAN (ASYG MUMFORD) ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE THREAT DISCUSSION PRECEDE THE DEFENSE INITIATIVES TEXT, ARGUING THAT THIS WOULD PROVIDE A MORE LOGICAL FLOW. US REP (BADER), SUPPORTED BY UK REP (PETERS), WHILE AGREEING THAT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE SHOULD APPEAR EARLIER IN THE DRAFT, SAID THAT THE NEW DEFENSE INITIATIVES SHOULD REMAIN UP FRONT, STATING THAT (A) MINISTERS' SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WILL FOCUS FIRST ON THE OUTCOME OF THE LONDON SUMMIT; (B) THE COMMITTEE SHOULDN'T BE TRAPPED INTO FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING THE ORDERING OF ITEMS ON THE DPC AGENDA IN THE COMMUNIQUE AND (C) GIVEN THE PUBLICITY ACCORDED THE SUMMIT AND THE NEW DEFENSE PROGRAMS, PRECEDING THESE EXCITING INITIATIVES BY A BLAND THREAT STATEMENT WOULD GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF "BUSINESS AS USUAL," RATHER THAN THE ALLIANCE INNOVATIVELY RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE 1980S. US AND UK REPS WERE ISOLATED ON THIS ISSUE, HOWEVER, BUT WERE ABLE TO DISUADE COMMITTEE FROM PROMOTING MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE AHEAD OF DEFENSE INITIATIVES.

2. AWACS (PARA 9). DRC ADOPTED US TEXT (PARA 1A, REF B) BUT, AT FRG REP'S INSISTANCE, AMENDED THIS TEXT, DELETING THE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO "NIMROD AND NATO E-3A AWACS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 NATO 03244 131331Z

AIRCRAFT" IN THE PENULTIMATE SENTENCE. FRG REP ARGUED THAT, ALTHOUGH INTEROPERABILITY WITH THE BRITISH NIMROD AIRCRAFT IS THE OBJECTIVE, BONN IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THEY WILL IN FACT BE INTEROPERABLE.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE (PARA 10). COMMITTEE AGREED, WITHOUT DISCUSSION, TO INCLUDE US-PROPOSED LANGUAGE IN BRACKETS.

4. DRC WILL ADDRESS A REVISED DRAFT (SEPTTEL) ON MAY 17, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE RESTRICTED SESSION OF THE DPC MINISTERIAL. BENNETT

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